



City Hall News

News from City Manager Deanna J. Santana

SantaClaraCA.gov/cmblog

November 4, 2019



Message from the City Manager

Greetings from City Hall! I'm happy to share some significant accomplishments with you. Our City has been recognized for award-winning services in our Library and Electric Utility. Plus, our staff continues to find innovative ways to support vibrant community spaces, particularly at our Mission Branch Library. To continue providing these services, we need feedback from you—on our City website, there are multiple opportunities to give us input on many different services, including trash collection, the future of Central Park, and our new beta website!

Find more information at SantaClaraCA.gov/cmblog. Watch out for this newsletter every other Monday to read about what's going on in Santa Clara!

Vibrant Public Spaces

Two years of City-driven efforts to inject more life and vibrancy into public and private spaces are gradually beginning to pay dividends, even without spending a whole lot of money. "Placemaking" involves making inviting physical and programmatic changes in spaces to better support active use by the community.

The first signs of the City's efforts were already emerging even before the City Council greenlighted implementation of a "placemaking" plan for the Mission Library and City Plaza Park on Oct. 22, 2019. The plan was developed by consultant Project for Public Spaces (PPS) and the Community Development Department after a large amount of public input.



Many of the recommendations made by PPS require minimal cost and effort to implement. Accordingly, Parks & Recreation and Library staff have already started to implement some of the easier recommendations with existing resources. Specifically, new benches have popped up in the park, and café tables and chairs have been installed on the library patios. New light cubes can be used as chairs or tables during evening events. A new 105-piece playground sparks the imagination. People can check out from the library a variety of outdoor games, including a giant Jenga set, cornhole, badminton, croquet, ping pong, T-ball, pickleball, horseshoes, footballs, soccer balls and flying discs. Look for more in the coming months, including projects with several community partners.



City of Santa Clara
The Center of What's Possible



Looking for more information? Visit SantaClaraCA.gov/cmblog for additional news from the City Manager!

Settlement Reached in Fair Labor Standards Act Lawsuit

The City of Santa Clara recently reached a settlement agreement in a Fair Labor Standards Act lawsuit brought by five firefighters who alleged the City failed to pay them and other employees the proper overtime rates for more than four years. While other City administrations and former Human Resource directors let the matter sit for several years going back to 2014, the current City administration addressed the situation within a year and half.

The lawsuit is based on a U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals decision in *Flores v. City of San Gabriel* that changed how overtime pay is calculated. Due to the ruling, employers including the City of Santa Clara must now account for cash payments made in lieu of health benefits to employees when calculating overtime pay.

The U.S. Supreme Court declined to review the case in May 2017, allowing the decision to stand. This federal court decision also caused many California cities to go back and apply the decision of the court. The City's settlement is for \$2.7 million, which includes about \$150,000 in attorneys' fees. As authorized by the City Council, the settlement agreement would apply to all current and former employees entitled to FLSA overtime from May 2014 through August 2018. The court still must approve the City's settlement agreement. A hearing is scheduled for Dec. 12, 2019, and the City expects the Court to rule then or soon after that date. For more information, contact the City Manager's Office at 408-615-2210 or email manager@santaclaraca.gov.

City Manager Highlights Accomplishments

In a Community Letter issued Oct. 25, City Manager Deanna J. Santana shared her gratitude for working with the community, employees, and City Council toward advancing the goals and priorities of the City of Santa Clara. This October marks Santana's second year as Santa Clara's city manager. Read about the many accomplishments and key priorities that contribute to the City's quality of life on the City's website, SantaClaraCA.gov/news.



Upcoming Events in Santa Clara

Check out some of these great events in Santa Clara! Please note that this is not a comprehensive list of all events provided by the City of Santa Clara—for a complete list, visit SantaClaraCA.gov/calendar.

NOVEMBER

- City Council meeting—Nov 5 at 5 p.m. in Council Chambers
- Bowers Playground Ribbon Cutting—Nov. 6 at 1:45 p.m. at Bowers Park
- Veteran's Day Holiday—Nov. 11 all day (City facilities closed)
- City Council meeting—Nov. 12 at 6 p.m. in Council Chambers

NOVEMBER

- Planning Commission meeting—Nov. 13 at 6 p.m. in Council Chambers
- Library Book Sale—Nov. 16 at 10 a.m. at Central Park Library
- City Council meeting—Nov. 19 at 7 p.m. in Council Chambers
- Thanksgiving Holiday—Nov. 28-29 all day (City facilities closed)

Award-Winning City Services

Silicon Valley Power, the city-owned electric utility, was honored in late October to receive a Smart Energy Provider designation from the American Public Power Association (bottom left). This designation is given to public power utilities that demonstrate expertise in and a commitment to energy efficiency, distributed generation and environmental initiatives.

The Santa Clara City Library also drove away with statewide honors in late October when the California Library Association bestowed its PR Excellence Award for the Library's promotion of its revitalized bookmobile program (bottom middle & right). The association especially appreciated the bookmobile's eye-catching design and the popular Bookmobile Karaoke. The bookmobile was recognized for:

- innovating service to the community
- expanding beyond the typical bookmobile models
- showcasing the diversity of our services and our community

In the \$10 million-plus budget wildcard category, Santa Clara City Library bested big library systems with 20, 50 or even 70 libraries with full marketing departments.

"Brilliant!" the judges gushed. "Love all the ways and ideas to make this revitalized bookmobile something new, clever, fresh and fun."



Bowers Park Playground Ribbon Cutting

The City celebrates completion of another playground rehabilitation project with a ribbon cutting at the Bowers Park playground at 1:45 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 6. The public is invited to join the Mayor for the festivities at 2852 Cabrillo Ave. The project was partially funded by a grant from PlayCore and California Parks & Recreation Society.

Designed and built to be enjoyed by children of all abilities, PlayCore designated the playground as a national demonstration site. The project underscores the City's commitment to providing all the elements of play at the beginner, intermediate and advanced levels to meet the physical, social and developmental needs of children ages 2 to 5 and 6 to 12 in a natural setting.



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REPORT CONCERNS VIA MOBILE APP

Did you know you can report littering and park concerns with MySantaClara app from your mobile? If you notice park equipment or areas that need service, snap a photo and send it to us! Download the app or submit a request online at



**MY SANTA
CLARA**

We Want to Hear From YOU!

The City of Santa Clara is preparing to make some changes and needs your input. Please consider the following topics and weigh in at SantaClaraCA.gov/opencityhall:



Shape the Future of Santa Clara's Central Park

Review the final draft of the City's Central Park Master Plan, which looks at how the park may evolve over the next 20-years. **Before Nov. 12**, use our online survey to weigh in on the most recent draft regarding possible improvements for the 52-acre complex of Central Park. The Parks and Recreation Commission will hear a presentation and take public comments starting at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 19.

Beta Testing of Redesigned City Website Underway

Public beta testing of the redesigned SantaClaraCA.gov website, Beta.SantaClaraCA.gov, began on Oct. 23. The website redesign project entails replacing a City website that is about five years old while also creating three new subsites: Santa Clara City Library, Silicon Valley Power and SVP Fiber.

For the next several weeks, staff is conducting public beta testing through an online survey, on-location testing, and focus groups.



The public is encouraged to explore the beta website and provide feedback about how it works through the online survey at SantaClaraCA.gov/opencityhall, which runs through **5 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 13, 2019**. For more information, contact the City Manager's Communications Division at communications@santaclaraca.gov.



Options for Curbside Refuse Collection

The State has passed legislation that requires cities to implement organics recycling programs to minimize greenhouse gas emissions from landfills. One of the two residential organics collection program options will be implemented citywide on July 1, 2021, to comply with the State regulations on methane control:

- Option 1** - Expand the existing pilot split-cart food recycling program (with one compartment for organics and the other for garbage) to all single-family and townhouse customers.
- Option 2** - Maintain the existing garbage container for single-family and townhouse customers and deliver the contents to a mixed waste processing facility to recover food scraps and food-soiled paper.

Please provide your feedback on these options by taking a short survey **before Nov. 22**. Your feedback will be included when the City Council considers this item on Dec. 10, 2019.

For more information, contact Public Works at 408-615-3080 or environment@santaclaraca.gov.